PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY

SECOND ASSEMBLY.

FOURTEENTH SESSION.

Monday, the 10th January 1944/26th Dhanu 1119.

The Assembly met at 12 Noon in the Council Chamber, Public Offices, with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I, K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan-President in the Chair.

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NEW MEMBERS.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls :

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*)
2. Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction.*)
3. Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker, (*Secretary to Government.*)
4. Rajyasevapravina A. Lakshminarayana Aiyar, (*Financial Secretary to Government.*)
5. Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar, (*Director of Food Supplies*)
6. Mr. N. K. Narayana Pillai, (*Ag. Legal Remembrancer to Government.*)
7. Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan, (*Excise Commissioner.*)
8. Dr. H. Parameswaran, (*Controller of Stationery and Printing.*)
9. Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai, (*Chief Secretary to Government.*)
10. Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar, (*Conservator of Forests.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Purchase of rice and wheat.

1 * **MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR** (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they or their agents examine the quality and condition of wheat and rice which are being purchased from outside for local consumption ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Additional Secretary to Government*) Yes ; either through Government Officials specially appointed for the purpose or through recognised agents.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Do the recognized agents exercise their right in regard to this matter?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR (*Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the quality of wheat that is now supplied is good?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: All possible arrangements have been made for the supply of foodgrains of good quality.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know why wheat is sold at a higher rate through Government agencies than the rate obtaining in the market?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have times without number entreated the honourable members of this House and the public whenever such a thing has occurred to bring that to the notice of the Government. If, for instance, I had got intimation that wheat was being sold by Government at a higher rate than the market rate, steps could have been taken within 24 hours to enquire into the matter. I cannot understand why this information should be reserved and bottled up and brought to the House now. If honourable members want a relief, the best way to proceed is to bring their complaints to the notice of the Government as soon as possible.

In this connection I may also say that Government are painfully aware that certain supplies have been atrociously bad. As a matter of fact, there was a supply of wheat flour which came in such a condition that I placed it before General Hance, Director-General of the Indian Medical Service who came here on a visit and asked him whether he would be able to consume that flour. I said so in a meeting and I threatened to give him a dinner made out of that wheat flour. General Hance has taken that wheat flour to Delhi and has promised to look into the matter. Similar supplies have come up here and we have protested. We have sometimes declined to pay or have asked for compensation in regard to those supplies. But honourable members know very well the system under which the various local Governments are working. One Government has entrusted all its supplies, procurement and distribution to a particular firm. Another Government has appointed a syndicate for the purpose as well as a firm. A third Government has appointed a well known firm of European Produce Merchants for the purpose of both buying and selling, and it is from such Governments that we are getting our supplies. The responsibility is therefore not of the Governments but of the agencies which they employ. Thus, if we send a complaint to a particular Government, that complaint goes up to Delhi and then comes back to that Government; the Government then asks its agents and the agents send up their reply which is received by us probably after the matter has ceased to be of any live interest to anybody. We are making very desperate attempts to see that the allotted quantities are at least edible. But we are beggars and cannot be choosers. We need edible stuff and unless

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the Government of India sends us that stuff we shall indeed find it rather difficult to get over our present situation. And we have impressed on the Government of India that the foodstuffs are intended for our immediate local consumption and not for any other purpose, and I think that the idea is now weighing with the Government of India.

Purchase of Rice from Sind, Baluchistan and the Punjab.

2 *MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any State Rice Officer was deputed for the purchase of rice in Sind, Baluchistan or the Punjab as at Tanjore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes; in Sind and in the Punjab.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the names of the officers so appointed?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. Mohammed Sahib was sent to Sind and Mr. Chandrasekharan was on duty in the Punjab.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Was there any separate State representative in the Punjab while Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar was on duty in Tanjore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. Chandrasekharan was representing both Cochin and Travancore in the Punjab.

Rice Mills.

3 *MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for prohibiting the operation of rice mills in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The attention of the honourable member is invited to the Press Note dated 2nd February 1943 issued by the Government on the subject.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the honourable member refers to the Press Note dated 1st February, 1943 in this connection?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. It is an entirely different Press Note, which gives categorical reasons why the rice mills were closed down.

Kayal Poramboke for Punja Cultivation.

4 *MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any definite idea of the actual area of Kayal poramboke both North and South Travancore to be thrown open for Punja cultivation?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative. The matter is under investigation.

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